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Laws Relating to School District Reorganization

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Education
January 1983

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Peter J. Murphy, Director, School District Reorganization
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CHAPTER 71 OF THE GENERAL LAWS
(Sections 14 to 16I Inclusive)

Chapter 71 of the General Laws was amended by Chapter 638 of the Acts of 1949, by striking out sections 14 to 16, inclusive, as appearing in the Tercentenary Edition, and by inserting in place thereof sections 14 to 16I, inclusive. These sections were further amended by Chapter 331 of the Acts of 1951; Chapters 470 and 471 of the Acts of 1952; Chapter 214 of the Acts of 1954; Chapters 58, 65, 127, 141, and 142 of the Acts of 1955; Chapter 243 of the Acts of 1956; Chapter 53 of the Acts of 1957; Chapters 129 and 619 of the Acts of 1958; Chapter 650 of the Acts of 1960; Chapter 380 of the Acts of 1961; Chapter 232 of the Acts of 1962; Chapter 132 of the Acts of 1963; Chapter 17 of the Acts of 1964; Chapter 367 of the Acts of 1965; Chapter 14 (Section 72) of the Acts of 1969; Chapters 265 and 919 of the Acts of 1971; Chapters 49 and 134 of the Acts of the Acts of 1972; Chapters 1025 (Sections 1 & 2), 1049 and 1104 (Section 1) of the Acts of 1973; Chapters 33 and 492 (Sections 1, 2 and 13) of the Acts of 1974; Chapters 141 (Section 1) and 436 (Section 13) of the Acts of 1975; Chapter 823 of the Acts of 1977; Chapters 132 and 738 of the Acts of 1979; Chapter 580 (Section 6) of the Acts of 1980; Chapter 744 of the Acts of 1981, and Chapter 148 of the Acts of 1982.

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REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT PLANNING BOARD

SECTION 14. COMMITTEE; CREATION; MEMBERSHIP

Any town, by vote in town meeting duly called therefor, may create a special unpaid committee to be known as a regional school district planning committee, to consist of three members, including one member of the school committee, to be appointed by the moderator; and may at the same meeting or at a subsequent meeting appropriate for the expense of said committee such sum or sums, not exceeding one tenth of one per cent of the assessed valuation of such town in the preceding year, as it may deem necessary. Regional school district planning committees from any two or more towns may join together to form a regional school district planning board or boards. Such regional school district planning board shall organize forthwith upon its formation by the election of a chairman and secretary-treasurer.

SECTION 14A. DUTIES OF BOARD

It shall be the duty of the regional school district planning board to study the advisability of establishing a regional school district, its organization, operation and control, and of constructing, maintaining and operating a school or schools to serve the needs of such district; to estimate the construction and operating costs thereof; to investigate the methods of financing such school or schools; and any other matters pertaining to the organization and operation of a regional school district; and to submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the selectmen of the several towns.

SECTION 14B. REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS; FORMATION

The said regional district planning board may recommend that there shall be established a regional school district which may include all the towns represented by its membership, or alternatively, any specified combination of such towns. If the said regional district planning board so recommends, it shall submit a proposed agreement or agreements setting forth as to each alternative recommendation, if such be made, the following:-

(a) The number, composition, method of selection, and terms of office of the members of the regional district school committee.

(b) The town or towns in which, or the general area within the regional school district where, the regional district school or schools are to be located.

(c) The type of regional district school or schools. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the type of regional school may, if it is so stated in the agreement, consist of a vocational school or schools offering such kinds of education as may be provided by towns under the provisions of chapter seventy-four; and any other type of regional school may, if it is so stated in the agreement, offer said kinds of education. A town may simultaneously be a member of a vocational regional school district and any other type of regional school district provided, however, that when a vocational school district is in operation, no member town of such district, and no other type of regional school district of which such a town is a member shall, without the approval of the commissioner of education, offer the same kinds of education as offered by said vocational school district.

(d) The method of apportioning the expenses of the regional school district, and the method of apportioning the costs of school construction, including any interest and retirement of principal of any bonds or other obligations issued by the district among the several towns comprising the district, and the time and manner of payment of the shares of the several towns of any such expense.

(e) The method by which school transportation shall be provided, and if such transportation is to be furnished by the district, the manner in which the expenses shall be borne by the several towns.

(f) The terms by which any town may be admitted to or separated from the regional school district.

(g) The method by which the agreement may be amended.

(h) The detailed procedure for the preparation and adoption of an annual budget.

(i) Any other matters, not incompatible with law, which the said board may deem advisable.

Copies of such agreement shall be submitted to the emergency finance board, established under chapter forty-nine of the acts of nineteen hundred and thirty-three, and the department of education, and, subject to their approval, to the several towns for their acceptance.

SECTION 14C. LEASE OR SALE OF PROPERTY TO DISTRICTS

The agreement made under section fourteen B, or any amendment to such an agreement, may contain provisions authorizing any member town to sell, lease or grant a license to use any school building and any land appurtenant thereto or used in connection therewith to the regional school district, and any such town may authorize such sale, lease or license accordingly, notwithstanding the provisions of section three of chapter forty or any other provisions of law to the contrary. In case of a sale, the price and time or times of payment and the method by which the towns other than the selling town shall be assessed for such payment shall be set forth in the agreement or amendment; but in no case shall payments be made which shall extend over a period in excess of twenty years. In the case of a lease or license to use, the rental or license fee and terms of payment and assessment shall be set forth in the agreement or amendment. The lease or license to use may be for a term or period not in excess of twenty years, and may contain provisions for the extension of the lease or license to use for an additional term or period not in excess of twenty years, at the option of the regional district school committee.

SECTION 14D. SPECIAL VOTING ON BOND ISSUES

The agreement made under section fourteen B, or any amendment to such an agreement, may provide that the incurring of indebtedness by the district shall be approved by the registered voters in the member towns pursuant to the provisions of clause (n) of section sixteen. In any district for which the agreement does not so provide, the incurring of indebtedness shall be subject to disapproval by any member town pursuant to the provisions of clause (d) of said section sixteen. No amendment to an agreement to provide that the incurring of indebtedness shall be approved pursuant to the provisions of clause (n) of section sixteen shall take effect unless such amendment is approved by each of the member towns of the district.

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION 15. ACCEPTANCE BY ELECTORATE

The selectmen of each of the several towns shall, upon receipt of the recommendation that a regional school district should be formed, and of a proposed agreement therefor submitted in accordance with the provisions of sections fourteen to fourteen B, inclusive, or otherwise, in the form and with the approval required by said sections, cause to be presented for determination by vote, with printed ballots at an annual or special town meeting to be held in either case within

thirty days after receipt of such recommendation by said selectmen, the question of accepting the provisions of sections sixteen to sixteen I, inclusive, and the proposed agreement or agreements. The article in the warrant for such annual or special town meeting and the question on the printed ballots to be used at such meeting shall be in substantially the following form:

Shall the town accept the provisions of sections sixteen to sixteen I, inclusive, of chapter seventy-one of the General Laws, providing for the establishment of a regional school district, together with the towns of , and etc., and the construction, maintenance and operation of a regional school by the said district in accordance with the provisions of a proposed agreement filed with the selectmen? */YES / /* */NO / /*

If a majority of the voters present and voting on said question in each of the several towns shall vote in the affirmative, said sections sixteen to sixteen I, inclusive, shall become effective, and the proposed regional school district shall be deemed to be established forthwith in accordance with the terms of the agreement so adopted notwithstanding any defect or omission in the creation or organization of any regional school district planning committee or regional school district planning board.

SECTION 16. STATUS; POWERS AND DUTIES

A regional school district established under the provisions of the preceding section shall be a body politic and corporate with all the powers and duties conferred by law upon school committees, and with the following additional powers and duties:

(a) To adopt a name and a corporate seal, and the engraved or printed facsimile of such seal on a bond or note of the district shall have the same validity and effect as though such seal were impressed thereon.

(b) To sue and be sued, but only to the same extent and upon the same conditions that a town may sue or be sued.

(c) To acquire property within the towns comprising the district under the provisions of chapter seventy-nine and section fourteen of chapter forty for the purposes of the district and to construct, reconstruct, add to, remodel, make extraordinary repairs to, equip, organize and operate a school or schools for the benefit of the towns comprising the district, and to make any necessary contracts in relation thereto; provided, however, that no property shall be acquired unless the town in which such property is located approves such acquisition by a two-thirds vote at a town meeting which shall be called within sixty days after the district committee authorizes the incurring of debt for such purpose. [Note: Section 2 of Chapter 538 of the Acts of 1978 provides that clause (c) shall apply only to the acquisition of property for which a regional district school committee has authorized the incurring of debt after the effective date of said Chapter 538 of the Acts of 1978]

(d) To incur debt for the purpose of acquiring land and constructing, reconstructing, adding to, and equipping a school building or buildings for a term not exceeding twenty years or for the purpose of remodeling and making extraordinary repairs to a school building or buildings and for the construction of sewerage systems and sewerage treatment and disposal facilities, or for the purchase or use of such systems with municipalities, for a term not exceeding ten years and for the purpose of purchasing departmental equipment for a term not exceeding five years; provided, however, that any indebtedness so incurred shall not exceed an amount approved by the emergency finance board; and provided, further, that written notice of the amount of the debt and of the general purposes for which it was authorized shall be given to the board of selectmen in each of the towns comprising the district not later than seven days after the date on which said debt was authorized

by the district committee; and no debt may be incurred until the expiration of thirty days from the date on which said debt was so authorized; and prior to the expiration of said period any member town of the regional school district may hold a town meeting for the purpose of expressing disapproval of the amount of debt authorized by the district committee, and if at such meeting a majority of the voters present and voting thereon express disapproval of the amount authorized by the district committee, the said debt shall not be incurred and the district school committee shall prepare another proposal which may be the same as any prior proposal and an authorization to incur debt therefor.

In the case of a vocational regional school district, if the district agreement so provides or is amended to so provide, such debt may also be incurred if two thirds of the member towns do not vote disapproval within said thirty day period provided that said towns which have not voted disapproval agree, within ninety days of the date on which said debt was authorized, to pay the total bond indebtedness authorized by the district committee without contribution by the member towns which voted disapproval of the amount of said debt. The member towns of such vocational regional school district which have voted disapproval of the new indebtedness shall have the right to retain their membership in the school district as provided in their district agreement except that they shall not be allowed any added enrollment that might result solely from the expansion of facilities that occurs on account of said new indebtedness.

(e) To issue bonds and notes in the name and upon the full faith and credit of said district; said bonds or notes shall be signed by the chairman and treasurer of the district committee, except that said chairman by a writing bearing his written signature and filed in the office of said treasurer, which writing shall be open to public inspection, may authorize said treasurer to cause to be engraved or printed on said bonds or notes a facsimile of said chairman's signature, and such facsimile so engraved or printed shall have the same validity and effect as said chairman's written signature, and each issue of bonds or notes shall be a separate loan.

(f) To receive and disburse funds for any district purpose.

(g) To incur temporary debt in anticipation of revenue to be received from any source. This clause shall also apply to all regional school districts established under the provisions of special laws.

(h) To assess member towns for any expenses of the district.

(i) To receive any grants or gifts for the purposes of the regional district school or schools.

(j) To engage legal counsel; provided, however, that no money in excess of ten thousand dollars annually, shall be expended in connection with collective bargaining with employee organizations for school employees without prior approval of all municipalities comprising said district. Such approval shall be granted by the mayor, the city council in a city having a Plan D or Plan E form of government, or the board of selectmen.

(k) To submit an annual report to each of the member towns, containing a detailed financial statement, and a statement showing the method by which the annual charges assessed against each town were computed, together with such additional information relating to the operation and maintenance of such school or schools as may be deemed necessary by the district school committee or by the selectmen of any member town.

(l) To employ a superintendent of schools who may also be a superintendent of one or more of the towns comprising said district, and said superintendent shall have all the powers and duties imposed upon school superintendents by law.

(m) To adopt an annual operating and maintenance budget for the next fiscal year not later than forty-five days prior to the earliest date on which

the business session of the annual town meeting of any member town is to be held, but not later than March thirty-first, provided that said budget need not be adopted prior to February first.

(n) To incur debt not exceeding an amount approved by the emergency finance board for the purposes and terms specified in clause (d); provided that the vote of the district committee authorizing such debt is approved by a majority of the registered voters in the member towns voting on the question at an election called and held pursuant to the following provisions. The election shall be called by a warrant addressed to the registered voters in the member towns and signed by a majority of the members of the district committee which shall set forth the date of the election, the polling place or places in each town, the hours during which the polls are to be open and the question which is to appear upon the ballot. Notice of the election shall be given by posting a copy of the warrant attested by the secretary of the committee in at least one public place in each town and by publishing a copy thereof at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in the district, said posting and publishing to occur at least ten days before said election. A certificate of the secretary shall be conclusive evidence that the warrant was duly posted and published. The number and location of the polling place, or places, in each town shall be determined by the district committee after consultation with the selectmen thereof; and the hours during which all the polls in the district are open shall be uniform throughout the district and shall be not less than four nor more than eight consecutive hours. The district committee shall be responsible for preparing the ballots used at the election. The town clerk of each town shall certify the results of the election to the district committee. Except as provided herein the election shall be conducted in each town in the same manner as town meetings for the election of town officers. The expenses of the election shall be paid by the regional school district as an operating expense of the district; and if provision for their payment is not included in the budget for the year in which they are incurred, the district committee may use any available funds of the district or may transfer the sums required from appropriations included in the budget. The defeat of a proposal for incurring debt shall not prevent the resubmission of the same proposal as a new authorization.

(o) Stricken out by Section 11 of Chapter 512 of the Acts of 1978.

(p) To lease, or lease with an option to purchase, equipment for educational purposes. Such leases may be made for periods not exceeding five years.

(q) To lease land and buildings for educational purposes. Such leases may be made for periods not exceeding five years.

SECTION 16A. REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The powers, duties and liabilities of a regional school district shall be vested in and exercised by a regional district school committee organized in accordance with the agreement. The committee shall choose a chairman and a vice chairman by ballot from its membership. The vice chairman shall, in the absence of the chairman, exercise the powers and perform the duties of said chairman. It shall appoint a secretary and a treasurer who may be the same person, but who need not be members of said committee. The treasurer shall receive and take charge of all money belonging to the district, and shall pay any bill of the district which shall have been approved by the committee. The committee may appoint an assistant treasurer who need not be a member of the committee, and who shall, in the absence of the treasurer, perform his duties and shall have the powers and be subject to the requirements and penalties applicable to him. The treasurer and assistant treasurer may, by vote of said committee, be compensated for their services; provided, however, that if said treasurer or assistant treasurer is a member of said committee he shall not be compensated for his services. The treasurer and assistant treasurer of said district shall be subject

to the provisions of sections thirty-five, fifty-two and one hundred and nine A of Chapter forty-one, to the extent applicable. If the office of secretary is vacant or if the secretary is absent or is unable to perform his duties because of disability, the committee may appoint a temporary secretary to hold such office and exercise the powers and perform the duties thereof until a secretary is duly appointed or the secretary who was disabled or absent resumes his duties. The committee may appoint a school building committee which shall have such powers and duties relative to the construction, reconstruction, remodelling, repair, expansion or equipping of school buildings or facilities as the committee determines.

SECTION 16B. BUDGETS; APPORTIONMENT OF EXPENSES

The regional district school committee shall annually determine the amounts necessary to be raised, after deducting the amount of aid such district is to receive pursuant to section sixteen D, to maintain and operate the district school or schools during the next fiscal year, and amounts required for payment of debt and interest incurred by the district which will be due in the said year, and shall apportion the amount so determined among the several municipalities in accordance with the terms of the agreement. The amounts so apportioned for each municipality shall be certified by the regional school district treasurer to the treasurers of the several municipalities within thirty days from the date on which the annual budget is adopted by a two-thirds vote of the regional district school committee, but not later than April thirtieth. The regional school district treasurer shall include in the certification to each municipality a statement setting forth the amount which the district is to receive under said section sixteen D for the ensuing fiscal year and the proportionate share of such aid for such municipality.

The annual regional school district budget as adopted by a two-thirds vote of the regional district school committee, in all districts except two-member districts, shall require the approval of two-thirds of the local appropriating authorities of the several municipalities. The regional school district budget so approved shall be apportioned among the several municipalities and paid in accordance with the terms of the agreement.

The annual regional school district budget in a two-member regional school district, as adopted by a two-thirds vote of the regional district school committee, shall require the approval of the local appropriating authorities of both member municipalities; provided that in the event that both municipalities fail to approve said budget the following provisions shall apply. The regional district school committee shall convene a special district-wide meeting open to all registered voters in both municipalities at which the regional school district budget shall be considered. At such a special meeting, the annual regional school district budget shall require the approval of a majority of those present and voting on the regional school budget, by a counted vote. The regional school district budget so approved shall be apportioned among the member municipalities and paid in accordance with the terms of the agreement.

In the event that the annual regional school district budget does not receive the necessary approvals as required by this section, the budget shall be recommitted to the regional district school committee which shall have thirty days to amend and to resubmit said budget for approval in accordance with this section. With approval of the commissioner of education, a regional district school committee may obtain an additional fifteen days within which to amend and to resubmit said budget for necessary approvals.

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For the purposes of this section, a vote by a local appropriating authority to appropriate the municipality's apportioned share shall constitute approval of the annual regional school district budget; provided, however, that any municipality's apportioned share may not be increased in the same fiscal year without approval of the local appropriating authority.

At any time after the adopting of the annual budget, the regional district school committee may reduce the amount to be raised by assessment to the several municipalities and reapportion the reduced amount in accordance with the terms of the agreement for apportionment of costs. The regional school district treasurer shall recertify the amounts reapportioned to the treasurers of the several municipalities within thirty days from the date on which the district school committee votes to reduce the annual budget. If the recertification is made after the annual town meeting, the amount recertified shall be considered an amendment to the amount required to have been appropriated at that meeting without the necessity for further action by the municipalities, and, if the annual assessment of taxes has not been made, the municipal assessors shall include only the amount so recertified in making the annual assessment of taxes under the provisions of section twenty-three of chapter fifty-nine.

SECTION 16B 1/2. EXCESS AND DEFICIENCY FUND

If the unencumbered amount in the excess and deficiency fund, so called, of a regional school district at the end of a fiscal year exceeds five percent of its operating budget and its budgeted capital costs for the succeeding fiscal year, the amount in excess of the said five percent shall be applied by the regional school district committee to reduce the amount to be raised by assessment on the member cities and towns in accordance with the terms of the agreement for apportionment of costs. The regional school district treasurer shall recertify the amounts reapportioned to the treasurers of the several towns within thirty days from the date on which the district school committee votes to reduce the amounts to be raised by assessment. If the recertification is made after the annual town meeting referred to in the first paragraph of section sixteen B, the amount recertified shall be considered an amendment to the amount required to have been appropriated at that meeting without the necessity for further action by the town, and, if the annual assessment of taxes has not been made, the town assessors shall include only the amount so recertified in making the annual assessment of taxes under the provisions of section twenty-three of chapter fifty-nine.

SECTION 16C. REGIONAL SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION

The regional school district shall be subject to all laws pertaining to school transportation; and when the agreement provides for the furnishing of transportation by the regional school district, the Commonwealth shall reimburse such district to the full extent of the amounts expended for such transportation, except that no such reimbursement shall be made for transportation of any pupil who resides less than one and one-half miles, measured by a commonly traveled route, from the district school which he attends. The state treasurer shall annually, on or before November twentieth, pay to the regional school districts, subject to appropriation, the sums required for such reimbursement and approved by the commissioner of education.

SECTION 16D. STATE AID TO REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS

(a) A regional school district shall be entitled to receive state aid for construction of regional schools. Each city or town in a regional school district whether established under special or general law shall continue to receive such state aid for educational purposes as it would be entitled to receive if such

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district had not been formed. In addition, the state treasurer shall, subject to the provisions of subsection (c), upon certification by the commissioner of education annually pay on or before November twentieth to each regional school district an amount computed as follows:

(i) seventy per cent multiplied by the product of the regional school aid percentage multiplied by the regional reimbursable expenditures of the regional school district, for such districts which include grades kindergarten through twelve; or

(ii) fifty per cent multiplied by the product of the regional school aid percentage multiplied by the regional reimbursable expenditures of the regional school district, for all other regional school districts.

(b) The definitions in section two of chapter seventy shall apply to this section and the following words and phrases as used in this section shall have the following meanings: -

"Regional reimbursable expenditures", the total amount expended by a regional school district during a fiscal year for the support of public schools during said year exclusive of expenditures for transportation, for food for school food service programs and for capital outlays, after deducting therefrom any receipts for tuition, receipts from the federal government, the proceeds of any invested funds, and grants, gifts and receipts from any other source, to the extent that such receipts are applicable to such expenditures; provided, however, that in the first year that a regional school district is formed or the year in which a regional school district expands "regional reimbursable expenditures" shall mean the total amount expended by a regional school district in the fiscal year during which time the regional school district becomes operative or during which time the regional school district expands for the support of the public schools during said year exclusive of expenditures for transportation, for food for school food service programs, and for capital outlays, after deducting therefrom any receipts for tuition, receipts from the federal government, the proceeds of any invested funds and grants, gifts and receipts from any other source, to the extent that such receipts are applicable to such expenditures; provided however, that amounts received by a regional school district under this section as school aid shall not be so deducted. The commissioner of education may, by regulation, further define the expenditures and receipts that may be included hereunder.

"Regional school aid percentage", the amount by which one hundred per cent exceeds the product, to the nearest tenth of one per cent, of sixty-five per cent multiplied by the regional valuation percentage; provided, however, that in no instance shall the regional school aid percentage be less than fifteen per cent.

"Regional valuation percentage", the proportion, to the nearest tenth of one per cent, which the total equalized valuation of all cities and towns in the regional school district divided by the total school attending children in all cities and towns in the district bears to the average equalized valuation per school attending child in the cities and towns in regional school districts in the entire state.

(c) The receipt of the regional school aid as set forth in clauses (i) and (ii) of subsection (a) shall be subject to the following conditions:

(i) the formation of new regional school districts and the expansion of currently existing regional school districts shall be subject to the approval of the commissioner of education;

(ii) except as provided in clause (iii) of this subsection, no regional school aid shall be paid prior to the date of award of a contract for the construction of a regional school by the regional district school committee or prior to the date the regional district school committee enters into a lease of land and buildings or portions of buildings in lieu of such construction; and

(iii) in the case of regional school districts formed for administrative purposes only, no regional school aid shall be paid prior to the date on which the regional school district has assumed jurisdiction over the pupils in the district and the commissioner of education has made a determination that member cities and towns have provided sufficient and adequate school facilities for each grade level included in the regional school district.

SECTION 16E. AUDITS; PAYMENT OF COSTS

The director of accounts in the department of corporations and taxation shall annually cause an audit to be made of the accounts of the regional district school committtee, and for this purpose he, and his duly accredited agents, shall have access to all necessary papers, books and records. Upon the completion of each audit, a report thereon shall be made to the chairman of the district committee, and a copy thereof shall be sent to the chairman of the selectmen and of the school committee of each town which is a member of the district. The director shall apportion the cost among the several towns which are members of the district on the basis provided by section fourteen B, and submit the amounts of each apportionment to the state treasurer, who shall issue his warrant requiring the assessors of the towns which are members of the district to assess a tax to the amount of the expense, and such amounts shall be collected and paid to the state treasurer as provided by section twenty of chapter fifty-nine.

SECTION 16F. RETIREMENT SYSTEM

The regional school district shall maintain a contributory retirement system for non-teaching employees of the district, subject in all respects to the applicable provisions of chapter thirty-two.

SECTION 16G. LIABILITY OF TOWNS FOR EXPENSES OF DISTRICT

No town in a regional school district shall be liable for any obligation imposed on any other town in said district by authority of sections fourteen to sixteen I, inclusive, or of any agreement thereunder, any other provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding.

SECTION 16H. EMERGENCY FINANCE BOARD; COMPENSATION

The members of the aforesaid emergency finance board when acting under said sections shall receive from the Commonwealth compensation to the same extent as provided under chapter three hundred and sixty-six of the acts of nineteen hundred and thirty-three, as amended, including chapter seventy-four of the acts of nineteen hundred and forty-five.

SECTION 16I. SEVERABILITY OF SECTIONS

If any provision of said sections, or the application of such provision to any person or circumstances, shall be held invalid, the remainder of said sections and the application of such provisions to persons or circumstances other than those as to which it is held invalid, shall not be affected thereby.

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REVISIONS:

Chapter 311 5/19/51	Section 14 -	permits more than one regional school district planning board from same group of towns by alternative combinations
	Section 14A -	change "said" to "regional school district" in line 1
	Section 14B -	permits alternative groupings, requiring separate agreements for each alternative group of towns
	Section 15 -	clarifies method of voting and imposes 30-day deadline after submission of agreement to selectmen for calling for vote on same
Chapter 470 6/23/52	Section 16C -	provides for full reimbursements to regional school districts for certain transportation costs incurred by such districts
Chapter 471 6/23/52	Section 14B -	amends clause (c) by permitting inclusion of state-aided vocational education in regional district schools
Chapter 214 3/11/54	Section 14C -	permits towns to sell, license or lease school buildings to regional school districts for a term not in excess of 20 years
Chapter 58 2/10/55	Section 14C -	permits extension of leases and licenses for an additional 20-year period at the option of the regional school district
Chapter 65 2/14/55	Section 16 -	amends clauses (c) and (d) by permitting borrowing over a 10-year period for the purpose of remodeling or making extraordinary repairs
Chapter 127 3/1/55	Section 14C -	allows towns to sell, lease or license the land adjoining the building as well as the building
Chapter 141 3/4/55	Section 15 -	requires the voting for the establishment of a regional school district to be a part of a deliberative town meeting

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Chapter 142 3/4/55	Section 14B -	permits the agreement to name the town or to describe the general area in which the regional district school is to be located
Chapter 243 4/5/56	Section 16 -	amends clause (d) by requiring the regional district school committee to give the selectmen of the member towns written notice of any authorization to incur debt
Chapter 53 2/7/57	Section 15 -	amends first paragraph by eliminating requirement that a reference to Section 15 be included on the question on the ballot--no change has been made on the ballot itself
Chapter 129 2/28/58	Section 16A -	amends this section by permitting regional school districts to appoint an assistant treasurer
Chapter 619 10/3/58	Section 16B -	permits the treasurer of a member town of a regional school district, with the approval of the board of selectmen, to advance, from available funds, money to the regional school district prior to the annual town meeting to the extent of one third of the town's apportionment
Chapter 650 9/6/60	Section 14B -	amends clause (c) by permitting towns to form regional school districts solely for the purpose of offering vocational education
Chapter 380 4/17/61	Section 16 -	amends clause (d) by permitting a regional district school committee, in case a bond authorization is disapproved, to prepare another proposal which may be the same as the disapproved proposal.
Chapter 232 3/15/62	Section 16 -	amends clause (a) by permitting an engraved or facsimile seal to be used on bonds and notes of the district and amends clause (e) by permitting an engraved or facsimile signature of the chairman to be used on bonds and notes of the district

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Chapter 132 3/13/63	Section 16A -	requires regional district school committees to appoint by ballot a vice chairman who shall exercise and perform the powers and duties of the chairman in his absence
Chapter 17 2/3/64	Section 16A -	permits regional district school committees to appoint a temporary secretary while the office is vacant or while the secretary is absent or disabled
Chapter 367 4/27/65	Section 16 -	amends clause (d) by permitting regional school districts to borrow not in excess of 10 years for the construction or purchase of sewerage systems
Chapter 14 (See Section 49) 3/2/66	Section 16C -	strikes out clauses requiring that reimbursement for regional school transportation be paid out of the proceeds of the income tax
Chapter 136 4/6/66	Section 15 -	provides that votes by towns to establish regional school districts shall not be invalidated because of any defects in the creation or organization of a regional school district planning committee or planning board
Chapter 137 4/6/66	Section 16 -	amends clause (d) by providing that town meetings called to disapprove a bond issue must be held within 30 days after the date on which the regional district school committee authorized the bond issue
Chapter 779 12/12/67	Section 16D -	provides that towns which are members of a regional school district shall receive 15 percent additional Chapter 70 aid
Chapter 272 5/15/68	Section 16A -	provides that regional district school committees may appoint school building committees
Chapter 376 6/3/68	Section 14D - Section 16	permits region-wide elections on the question of approval of bond authorizations

Chapter 849 of the Acts of 1969 (Section 72) 6/30/73	Section 16B -	strikes out the second paragraph which permitted Treasurers of member towns to make certain advanced payments to the regional school district prior to the annual appropriations
Chapter 265 5/6/71	Section 16 -	indemnifies members of regional district school committees for any claims brought against them
Chapter 919 10/21/71	Section 16 -	permits regional school districts to lease equipment for educational purposes for periods not exceeding 5 years
Chapter 134 4/3/72	Section 16 -	permits regional school districts to borrow in anticipation of funds to be received from any source
Chapter 49 3/2/72	Section 16 -	permits regional school districts to lease land and buildings for educational purposes for periods not exceeding 5 years
Chapter 1025 (Section 1) 11/13/73	Section 16 -	permits regional school districts to adopt an annual operating and maintenance budget for the next fiscal year not later than forty-five days prior to the earliest date on which the business session of the annual town meeting of any member town is to be held, but not later than March thirty-first, provided that said budget need not be adopted prior to February first
Chapter 1025 (Section 2) 11/13/73	Section 16B -	rewrites the second sentence to read as follows: The amounts so apportioned for each town shall be certified by the regional school district treasurer to the treasurers of the several towns within thirty days from the date on which the annual budget is adopted by the regional district school committee, but not later than April thirtieth

Chapter 1049 11/16/73	Section 16 clause (d)	- amends clause (d) by permitting regional school districts to borrow for the purpose of purchasing departmental equipment for a term not exceeding five years
Chapter 1104 (Section 1) 11/29/73	Section 16A	- provides that the treasurer of a regional district school committee may not be compensated for his services if he is a member of the committee
Chapter 33 3/15/74	Section 16 clause (d)	- provides an alternative method of voting on bond issues only for regional vocational school districts
Chapter 492 (Section 12) 7/8/74	Section 16B	- requires regional school districts to deduct from their assessments the amount of state aid to be received under Section 16D of Chapter 71
Chapter 492 (Section 13) 7/8/74	Section 16D	- eliminates 15 per cent additional Chapter 70 aid and establishes a new formula whereby funds go directly to regional school district. This section was later revised by Section 13 of Chapter 436 of the Acts of 1975
Chapter 141 (Section 1)	Section 16 clause (j)	- permits regional school districts to expend up to $10,000 for collective bargaining purposes
Chapter 436 (Section 13) 7/10/75	Section 16D	- makes corrections in the formula provided for by Section 13 of Chapter 492 of the Acts of 1974
Chapter 823 12/16/77	Section 16B	- requires the regional school district treasurer to include in his certification a statement setting forth amount due under Section 16D
Chapter 512 (Section 11) 7/20/78	Section 16 clause (o)	- strikes out clause (o) providing for indemnity of members of regional district school comittees
Chapter 538 (Section 1) 7/20/78	Section 16 clause (c)	- requires a two thirds vote when the district bonds for acquisition of land in the town where the land is situated

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Chapter 132 5/7/79	Section 16B	-	permits the regional school district committee to reduce annual assessments to member towns and regulates the effect of the recertification of the amounts of said assessments.
Chapter 738 11/14/79	Section 16B 1/2	-	adds a new section which limits the amount a regional school district may maintain in its excess and deficiency fund.
Chapter 580 (Section 6) 11-4-80	Section 16B	-	strikes out the last two sentences.
Chapter 744 1-2-81	Section 16B	-	prescribes the procedures to be followed in developing the regional school district budget.
Chapter 148 6-14-82	Section 16B	-	adds a new section which further defines budgetary action taken by the local appropriating authority.

Chapter 71

SECTION 42B. RIGHTS OF EMPLOYEES IN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS

The provisions of this chapter relating to school personnel granted certificates in accordance with section thirty-eight G shall apply to all such school personnel employed by regional school districts. Any such school personnel serving at the discretion of a local school committee of a town in the district, excepting the superintendents of schools, whose position is superseded by reason of the establishment and operation of a regional school district shall be elected by the regional district school committee to serve at its discretion.

All such school personnel employed by regional school district committees shall initially be placed on the salary schedule of the regional school district committee so that compensation to be paid such school personnel shall not be less than the compensation received by such school personnel while previously serving at the discretion of a local school committee. Such school personnel shall also be given credit by the regional school district committee for all accumulated sick leave and accumulated sabbatical leave years of service while serving at the discretion of the local school committee and for terminal compensation due such school personnel on the termination of such service.

All such personnel not serving at the discretion of a local school committee of a city or town in the district or of a local board of trustees for vocational education, excepting the superintendent of schools, whose position is superseded by reason of the establishment and operation of a regional school district shall be elected to serve in such district by the regional district school committee; provided, that there is an available position which such person is certified to fill. All such personnel employed by regional school district committees shall initially be placed on the salary schedule of the regional school district committee so that the compensation paid to such school personnel shall not be less than the compensation received by such school personnel while previously employed by a local school committee or by a local board of trustees for vocational education. Such school personnel shall also be given credit by the regional school district committee for all accumulated sick leave, accumulated time towards service at discretion, and accumulated sabbatical leave years of service, and for terminal compensation due such school personnel on the termination of such service.

Any employee subject to the provisions of chapter thirty-one, employed by the school committee of a town, whose position is superseded by reason of the establishment and operation of a regional school district shall be employed by the regional district school committee without loss of any civil service or other rights previously acquired by him.

This section shall also apply to all school personnel serving at the discretion of local trustees for vocational education, and any such school personnel whose positions are superseded by reason of the establishment and operation of a regional school district shall be elected by the regional district school committee to serve at its discretion. Added by St.1952, c.545; amended by St.1956, c.136, ss.1; St.1969, c.653; St. 1970, c.389; St.1970, c.491; St.1971, c.307; St.1976, c.351.

Chapter 74

SECTION 5A. ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS

Independent distributive occupations, industrial, agricultural, vocational, home economics and allied health occupations schools may be established and maintained by regional school districts established under sections fourteen and fifteen of chapter seventy-one if the agreement for the establishment of the regional school district, either as originally adopted or as subsequently amended, so provides, and for that purpose the regional district school committee shall have the powers and perform the duties conferred or imposed by law upon local trustees for vocational education, and may be known as a board of regional school district trustees for vocational education. (Added by St.1952, c.471, ss.3; amended by St.1978, c.475, ss.2.)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Bureau of School District Reorganization
and Collaboration
Massachusetts Department of Education
1385 Hancock Street
Quincy, Massachusetts 02169
Peter Murphy, Director (617) 770-7598
Christine Lynch (617) 770-7597

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Regional Education Centers

Greater Boston Regional Education Center
27 Cedar Street
Wellesley, Massachusetts 02181
(617) 431-7825
Christine Lynch

Northeast Regional Education Center
219 North Street
North Reading, Massachusetts 01864
(617) 664-5723
Christine Lynch

Central Massachusetts Regional Education Center
Beaman Street, Route 140
West Boylston, Massachusetts 01583
(617) 835-6267
Frank Shea

Southeast Regional Education Center
P.O. Box 29, Route 105
Lakeville, Massachusetts 02346
(617) 727-1440, ext. 445
E. Curtis Hall

Pittsfield Regional Education Center
188 South Street
Pittsfield, Massachusetts
(413) 499-0745
James Shiminski

Springfield Regional Education Center
88 Massasoit Avenue
West Springfield, Massachusetts 01089
(413) 739-7271
Joseph Flahive